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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 3, 1990

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Press Qian Visit

MEMORANDUM

TO: EAP - Mr. Solomon
FROM: EAP/P - Mary Carlin Yates *Baker*
SUBJECT: Noon Press Briefing
Spokesman: Margaret Tutwiler

NEW ZEALAND

NZPA's Freeth asked if Tutwiler had any comment on New Zealand's announcement of its contribution to the multinational efforts in the Persian Gulf. She read the first two answers on the attached guidance.

Connie Lawn (Radio New Zealand) asked whether, despite what Tutwiler had said, "this create(s) a better psychological climate for closer relations in the future" between the US and NZ. Tutwiler replied: "I don't have a way to answer that. We've responded to this action they've taken. It does not change our defense policy. I don't know else how to take it further for you, to be honest."

CHINA

In denying a report that Secretary Baker had confided the President's Friday morning announcements about the Persian Gulf situation in advance to the Security Council members he met with last Thursday evening, Tutwiler noted: "I attended the Secretary's bilateral (Friday) with the Chinese Foreign Minister, which began at 11 AM, and Secretary Baker began that meeting by informing his counterpart of what the President was, at that moment, announcing from the White House."

When the reporter then began asking about a failure to consult, Tutwiler defended the US' actions and added that most countries and members of Congress supported the steps the President announced. "In fact, Foreign Minister Qian said, when Secretary Baker told him, that he welcomed this, that this was a good decision. That was his immediate reaction," she said.

Asked later whether she had any information about Secretary Baker or some of his aides travelling to China, Tutwiler noted: "We announced, I believe on Friday, at the conclusion of the ministerial, that Assistant Secretary Schifter would be going and that Reggie Bartholomew would be going. If those are aides, those are two people who are going."

Tutwiler was asked if the Department endorses the sentiments expressed by Amb. Lilley that Chinese dissidents should return to China. She read the first answer on the attached guidance.

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CBS' Plante asked if the Ambassador was "walking back" from his original statement. Tutwiler repeated: "It was a spontaneous remark. We're all human beings. But his policy in his speech clearly say(s) what the policy is."

ABC's McWethy asked: "It doesn't reflect the views of the US Government or of Lilley even though it came out of Lilley's mouth?" "We're all human beings," Tutwiler responded.

Plante asked if Lilley had been spoken to about this or reprimanded. "No," Tutwiler said.

Attachments: As stated

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EAP PRESS GUIDANCE
December 3, 1990

CHINA -- AMB. LILLEY'S COMMENTS IN SEATTLE

Q: Do you have any comment on what Amb. Lilley is reported to have said to demonstrators in Seattle?

A: -- THE AMBASSADOR'S SPONTANEOUS REMARK DOES NOT REPRESENT THE CONSIDERED VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, NOR INDEED OF AMB. LILLEY HIMSELF, AS HE CLEARLY ARTICULATED IN HIS SPEECH LATER THAT DAY.

-- NO ONE APPRECIATES BETTER THAN AMB. LILLEY THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING FOR REFORM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHINA.

-- AMB. LILLEY AND HIS STAFF HAVE WORKED HARD UNDER DIFFICULT, AND AT TIMES DANGEROUS CONDITIONS TO CONVINCE THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE THOSE HELD AS A RESULT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNs RAISED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS AT TIANANMEN.

Q: What is your attitude toward human rights in China?

A: -- HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD

BOTH THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO THIS ISSUE DURING RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER.

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Q: What did Amb. Lilley mean by the word "coward"?

A: -- YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK AMB. LILLEY ABOUT HIS CHOICE OF WORDS.

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